

Tuesday – 12/10/2021

## Question and Answer on Covid-19 during the awareness at Vulupindi Haus.

### 1. Questions on vaccine types

- a) What's the difference between the Astra Zeneca and the Johnson & Johnson?
  - a. AZ requires 2 doses and has slightly higher efficacy, J&J requires only 1 dose but has slightly lower efficacy. Both vaccines are highly protective against severe disease and death associated with COVID-19
- b) Is the vaccine liquid or metal (mercury)?
  - a. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain metal of any type, nor any form of mercury
- c) Could you explain the chemistry behind the magnetic force that is so attractive to any form of metals when placed on the area where the jab was given?
  - a. This is caused by normal oil and sweat on the surface of our skin. The vaccine does NOT cause any magnetic force.
- d) The Astra Zeneca vaccine lapse its immunity after six months?
  - a. It is possible that there is some slight decrease in the vaccine's ability to prevent infection but it remains highly effective in preventing severe disease and death due to COVID-19
- e) From about three types of vaccine available in the country, which one is recommendable?
  - a. All are recommended, all 3 vaccines have been approved for use by WHO and by PNG Regulatory Authority, all 3 vaccines are highly protective against severe disease and death due to COVID-19
- f) I took Astra Zeneca shot; does it mean I have to take Johnson & Johnson?
  - a. If you have taken 1 dose of AZ vaccine then you should take the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of AZ after 8 weeks. IF you have already taken 2 doses of AZ you do not need any additional dose of vaccine at this time
- g) Can I get all the vaccines?
  - a. You should select one vaccine and take the recommended number of doses of that particular vaccine
- h) All three vaccines available at VC to take?
  - a. J&J vaccine is available in Vision City
- i) I understand the vaccine is on clinical trial? If so why are we allowing people to get it?
  - a. All 3 vaccines available in PNG have successfully completed the 3 main Phases of Clinical Trials and data has been validated by numerous regulatory bodies. However, most vaccines are also entered into Phase 4 studies which can only start after the vaccine has already been demonstrated to be safe and effective and is being used widely. This phase study consists mainly of surveillance to look at safety and efficacy in the general population over extended periods of time.
- j) What are the differences between a Conventional Vaccine such as Sinopharm vaccine and the MRNA based vaccines?

- a. Sinopharm is an inactivated vaccine which uses similar technology as the flu vaccine and polio vaccine. mRNA vaccines use a different technology to deliver the instruction to activate the immune system.

## 2. Questions on the effects and safety

- a) What are some side effects?
  - a. Tiredness, low grade fever, mild headache, achiness
- b) If someone is on other medication, is it safe to get the vaccine?
  - a. There are no contraindications to taking a COVID-19 vaccine if you are taking other medicines
- c) Those with underlying medical conditions (such like hypertension, diabetes cancer, high blood pressure, anaemic, etc.), is it safe to get the vaccine?
  - a. Not only is it safe to take the vaccine, but it is very important for persons with these conditions to be vaccinated. COVID-19 may cause more severe disease in persons currently living with other medical conditions. 85% of deaths due to COVID-19 occurred in persons having other medical conditions.
- d) Is it safe for people who are vaccinated to work closely with unvaccinated people?
  - a. Persons who are fully vaccinated have a lower risk of getting sick if they are infected. However even a vaccinated person can be infected by an unvaccinated person who is sick with COVID-19.
- e) Can the current vaccine protect us from Delta Variant and other diseases that mutate from Covid-19?
  - a. The vaccines remain highly protective against severe disease and death due to any variant of COVID-19
- f) How long will the vaccine be active in our body to fight this covid-19/delta variant?
  - a. The vaccine remains highly effective for at least 6 months against moderate disease and seems to remain effective against severe disease and death for a much longer time
- g) If you get the vaccine, can you still get the virus?
  - a. Yes, you can still be infected, however if infected you will probably only have an asymptomatic or mild infection. You will be protected against severe disease and death
- h) Any statistics that shows the number of persons who are vaccinated died from covid-19 in PNG or other countries?
  - a. Among the 247 deaths that have occurred in PNG due to COVID-19 none were vaccinated
- i) Why vaccinated people are still wearing masks?
  - a. Even vaccinated persons can still get asymptomatic or mild infections. It will be necessary to wear mask until we achieve high vaccination coverage with COVID-19 vaccines in PNG
- j) People who get the vaccines are still tested positive and die from the virus, why?
  - a. It is very ,very unusual for a vaccinated person to die from COVID-19. When this has occurred, the affected person was either extremely elderly >80 yrs

and/or had a very serious underlying disease which prevented his immune system from benefitting from the vaccine.

- k) Can the children below 18 be vaccinated? If 'no', why? Is there any vaccine for them?
  - a. No, children <18 years should not be vaccinated. Clinical trials have not yet been completed in the younger age group for the vaccines AZ, J&J and Sinopharm and they are not approved for use in <18 year age group by PNG Regulatory Authority.
- l) Gone through major surgery due to fibroid endometriosis and still undergoing side effects of the surgery (abdomen pains). What are the effects of vaccine on this?
  - a. You may consult your surgeon doctor about this. However, surgery is not a known contraindication for vaccination.
- m) Im in my late 40s, do I need to be concerned about the serious side effects (like blood clots)?
  - a. A very rare condition of unusual blood clots has been associated with use of AZ and J&J vaccines. The risk of this occurring is a few cases out of every million people vaccinated.

### **3. Validity and relevance of the vaccine**

- a) There are teams of doctor that oppose the vaccines that have gone viral on social media. Why are they not being uniform in their findings?
  - a. Doctors are not a homogeneous group and there may be some who disagree with vaccination. They are not backed by scientific studies which overwhelmingly demonstrate the benefits of vaccination and the vaccines' effectiveness in preventing deaths due to COVID-19
- b) If the Astra Zeneca immunity lapses in six months, why getting it at the first place?
  - a. AZ and the other vaccines are highly protective in preventing severe disease and death from COVID-19. This beneficial effect seems to be of longer duration, for a period exceeding 6 months
- c) They said vaccination is spreading the virus, is it true? Explain please
  - a. The vaccines do not cause infection and do not "spread" the virus that causes COVID-19. None of the vaccines in use contain a live virus. They cannot cause infection or COVID-19.